

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of June 5-June 9, 2006**

1. Gym Feasibility Study: The City has issued a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study for a gymnasium addition to the Takoma Park Community Center. Proposals from firms are due July 3, 2006, at 4 pm. A firm would be chosen July 31st. The firm is to complete the study within an eight-week time frame. The RFP is posted on the City's web site, www.TakomaParkMd.gov. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

2. DC Comprehensive Plan: The draft DC Comprehensive Plan is nearing completion. Information on the plan and plan process can be found at www.inclusivecity.com. A Mayor's Hearing on the Plan will be held on Tuesday, June 13th and an additional key hearing will be held in the fall. The City of Takoma Park is scheduled to take a position on the Plan in July. Most of the draft document is on-line, with sections for different areas of the City being posted as they are completed. The one for the area closest to Takoma Park, the Rock Creek East Area Element, was posted yesterday and can be viewed at <http://www.inclusivecity.org/docManager/1000000880/RockCreekEastAreaElement.pdf>. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

3. Phase II Grand Opening: The Recreation Department is preparing for the celebration of the Phase II opening of the Community Center with its Rec-Around-the-Block to be held on Thursday, June 15th with the following schedules: Grades 1 -5 from 4:00 -6:00pm and Grades 6 -8 from 7:00 - 10:00pm Friday; June 16th Grades 9-12, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm. The event will include Music, Contest, Door Prizes, Video Games, Giveaways, Class Demonstrations and Light Refreshments. *(Recreation)*

4. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6): Tenants residing at Hampshire Towers (7333-7401 New Hampshire Avenue) will have the opportunity to attend one of three housing seminars this month. The seminars are sponsored by the Tenacity Group and Community Preservation Development Corporation (CPDC), the two companies that partnered with the Hampshire Towers Tenant Association to purchase the property. The tenants will be provided information about the process for rehabilitation of the property and their rights to purchase a condominium or to remain as tenants in the building. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. Affordable Housing Program (City Wide): Plans are underway to schedule a First Time Home Buyer Class for Spanish speaking residents that will be offered in the Fall. The class will contain information on the process for purchasing a home and county programs available for first time home buyers. Residents who are interested in being a part of this class should call 301.891.7222. Additionally, the City plans to offer a class (English and Spanish) entitled "Financial Fitness." The class, which will be conducted by staff from Housing And Community Initiatives, Inc., will emphasize budgeting and credit. Emphasis will be on placed on getting your financial affairs in order so that future financial goals - such as home ownership - can be attained. *(Housing and Community Development)*

- 6. Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** The HCD Department held an Enterprise Zone meeting for businesses in the area of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard on Tuesday, June 6th. The guest speaker was Susan Milukas of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development who explained the Neighborhood Business Works program and Capital Access program, financing programs targeted towards small businesses. Sgt. Gilbert of Takoma Park Police gave an update on area criminal activity and Ilona Blanchard of the Housing and Community Development Department briefed the businesses on planning efforts along the corridor. For more information, please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 7. Police Awards:** City TV staff will be covering the Police Awards ceremony Friday, June 9. This will be aired live on City TV 13 and will be made available on the website as a video archive in the near future. *(City TV)*
- 8. Snapshots!:** The June episode of Snapshots! is now airing on City TV 13. Topics include: Community Oriented Policing - Using Home ALarm Systems; Takoma's House and Garden Tour; Takoma-Langley Crossroads Gang Prevention Center Press Conference; Soap Box Derby; New Hampshire Avenue Economic Development Tour; and, a reminder that Parking Permit renewals are due in the City. *(City TV)*
- 9. Visit to the House:** Lonni Moffet and a group of Maryland NATOA chapter members are visiting the office of Senator Paul Sarbanes on Friday, June 9, to discuss the Senate versions of national franchising legislation. Unfortunately, the House voted in favor of the COPE legislation on Thursday, June 8, despite many efforts of local government and PEG access constituencies. *(City TV)*
- 10. Jazz Fest:** City TV staff will be covering the Takoma Jazz Fest on Saturday, June 11, at Jeque Park from 11:00am-7:00pm. *(City TV)*
- 11. New Staff in the Code Enforcement Division (City Wide):** The Housing and Community Development Department is pleased to welcome Ms. Joanna Nasios to its staff. Ms. Nasios, whose first day as Program Assistant was Monday, June 5, will be assisting the Code Enforcement Division with its licensing and inspection activities. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 12. Poetry Reading Series (City-wide):** The work of local poets Anne Dykers and Alan Rubenstein was featured at last night's monthly poetry reading. The event was well attended with thirty people joining Poet Laureate Don Berger at the reading. In July, the community is invited to participate in an open reading of poetry on Thursday, July 13 at 7:00pm in the Takoma Park Community Center. If you write poetry, please join us. We would love to hear your work. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at ahc@takomagov.org or call 301.891.7224. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 13. Opening Reception - "Four Painters in Takoma Park" (City Wide):** The work of local artists Riki Schneyer, Carollyn James, Renee Lachman, and Josh Holland, showcased in the exhibit "Four Painters in Takoma Park", will be celebrated this Sunday, June 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Atrium gallery. The event - an ice cream social - is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. Opening Reception - "Passport to Korea" (City Wide): Passport to Korea celebrates the artwork created by the children participating in the April spring break camp offered by Learning to Care of Takoma Park. Join these young artists in the Richard Dempsey Memorial Gallery this Sunday, June 11 from 2:30 to 5:00 pm. Enjoy Korean food, see the famous battle of Admiral Yi's turtle boat, paint masks, and see what that movie "Doggy Poo" is all about! The event is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. Opening Event - "Faces of War" (City Wide): Faces of War: A Peace Memorial, created by a group of young artist-peacemakers from central California, will be celebrated this coming Friday, June 16 at 6:00pm. The artists will be on hand as well as poets from DC Poets Against the War and the Beltway Poetry Quarterly. The event is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. Long Branch Business League - Flower Avenue Sidewalk Sale (Ward 5): The 2nd Annual Flower Avenue Day Sidewalk Sale, organized by the Long Branch Business League, will be held on Saturday, June 10th from Noon-4pm. Businesses on both sides of Flower Avenue and the Giant Shopping Center will set up tables outside and sell in a festive environment. Live entertainment and a Community Yard Sale will